<center>**Amendments to the Claims:**</center>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 3, 5-8, 11-13, 24, and 31 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a method comprising:

receiving a query comprising a plurality of search arguments;

mapping the query to a plurality of pre-compiled procedures that correspond to the plurality of search arguments;

~~decomposing the query into component parts corresponding to the search arguments;~~

executing a plurality of primitive searches ~~primitive search~~ of a database using the pre-compiled procedures ~~for each component part to obtain a key list comprising at least one key~~;

obtaining a list of keys from the execution of the plurality of primitive searches; and

executing at least one database operation using data ~~of the key list~~ in the list of keys to retrieve results.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising returning the results in response to the query.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising validating the

~~query~~ request.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, for each primitive search

that is executed, receiving a value indicative of a number of keys, and determining

whether the number of keys indicates that no match was found for a given search

argument.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising filtering results of

the ~~primitive search~~ plurality of primitive searches based on information received with

the query such that the key list contains a filtered subset of returned keys.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising committing the

~~search~~ primitive searches.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein committing the ~~search~~

primitive searches includes sorting the key list based on information received with the

query.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein executing a plurality of

primitive searches ~~primitive search~~ of a database using the pre-compiled procedures ~~for~~

~~each search argument to obtain a key list~~ comprises, maintaining a staging area including

a key set of at least one key returned from a primitive search, and combining the key set with another key returned from another primitive search.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the other primitive search corresponds to a different search argument, and wherein combining the key set comprises performing an AND-ing of keys.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the other primitive search corresponds to a common search argument, and wherein combining the key set comprises performing an OR-ing of keys.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, determining which of the search arguments is likely to be most selective with respect to receiving keys, and further comprising ordering the search argument data such that the search argument that was determined as most likely selective is used first in executing the primitive ~~search~~ searches of the database.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising associating a context identifier with the query ~~search request~~.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein the query is received in an XML message, and wherein returning the results comprises formatting an XML response message.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the query is received in an UDDI find request.

15.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

16 - 23. (Withdrawn)

24.   (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a method comprising:

a) receiving a client query comprising a plurality of search arguments;

b) decomposing the query into component parts corresponding to the search arguments;

c) ordering the component parts and selecting a first component part as a selected component part based on the ordering;

d) executing a primitive search of a database for the selected component part based on a pre-compiled procedure that maps to the selected component part;

e) combining the result of the search with any previous search results in a combined result key list;

f) determining whether the combined result key list includes at least one key,

1) and if not, terminating the process and returning a response indicative of no match found;

2) and if so, determining whether a next component part remains to be searched, and if so, selecting that next component part as the selected component part and returning to d), and if not, continuing to g)

g) using data of the key list to retrieve results from the database; and

h) returning a response including the results to the client query.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the result of at least one search for a selected component part comprises the results of a plurality of searches OR-ed together.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein combining the result of the search comprises AND-ing the result with any previous search results in a combined result key list;

27.   (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising validating the client query.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising filtering the result of at least one search.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising sorting the data of the key list.

30.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 24.

31.   (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a system comprising:

means for receiving a request comprising <u>a plurality of</u> search arguments;

<u>means for mapping the request to a plurality of pre-compiled procedures that correspond to the plurality of search arguments;</u>

means for searching a database <u>using the plurality of pre-compiled procedures</u> ~~with primitives corresponding to the search arguments~~;

means for combining keys received from the database search into a key list; and

means for retrieving results from the database via data in the key list.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the means for receiving a request comprises request handling means in a UDDI environment.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 31 further comprising means for returning the results in response to the request.